

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Springtime at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park**

### **Spring Planting Living History Day**

**Where:** *Sutter's Fort State Historic Park*, 2701 L Street, Sacramento

**When:** Saturday, April 7, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Special Events Admission:** Adults \$6.00; Youths ages 6-17 \$3.00;  
Children 5 and younger are free.

**Event Media Contact:** Kathy Gallup: 916.323.2015

Ask a child today where his or her food comes from and “the store” is your likely answer. Join Sutter's Fort State Historic Park Docents for Spring Planting Living History Day on Saturday, April 7, 2007 and learn how food was grown and prepared in the 1800's, prior to supermarkets and cafes.

California has long been known as an agricultural capital. Vast fields of wheat, barley, alfalfa, tomatoes; perfect rows of grape vines, corn, and strawberries; immaculate orchards of citrus can be seen as you travel the rural corridors.

In Captain John Sutter's time his Fort was the center of an agricultural empire in today's Sacramento Valley. Sutter had large herds of cattle, sheep and other

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livestock. His workers planted hundreds of acres of wheat, corn and even “millions of onions,” according to Sutter. The pioneers who arrived from the east had to learn what would grow on their new farms and how to deal with California’s different climate. Would the seeds they had brought grow here? How would they get water to their crops when there was no rain through the summer? Many turned to Sutter and other seasoned California hands for advice.

Sutter’s Fort docents will bring the 1840s to life as they plan their spring gardens and discuss new crops. Long before the discovery of gold, Sutter and other immigrant farmers dreamed of golden fields of grain, rows of growing vegetables, and orchards full of fruit trees. Would their plans ever come to fruition?

Captain Sutter along with those immigrant families, carpenters, bakers, spinners, trappers, Mexican soldiers, and others housed in the protective walls of the fort, will bring early California’s rich history alive. All characters and historical figures are portrayed by the Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park Docents. Re-live the sights, smells and sounds of the past! Interested time-travelers can call Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park, one of 278 California State Parks, at 916-445-4422 for further event information or for information on joining the Living History Program as a volunteer docent.

*Note: Docents and staff are available for on-air interviews prior to event with notice.*

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**About Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park**

*Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the nonprofit Sacramento Historic Sites Association, Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located in midtown Sacramento on L Street between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets, the Fort offers special events and living history programs throughout the year. Established in 1839 by Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Sutter’s Fort was at the center of a flourishing agricultural empire named New Helvetia (New Switzerland.) This empire established Sacramento’s earliest settlement and the first non-Indian settlement in California’s Central Valley. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or visit [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) and click on “Find a Park.”*